

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 and 15-25 are pending in the application.

By the foregoing Amendment, rejected claims 1-7 are sought be to be canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 8, 10, and 12 are sought to be amended to depend from claim 25, which the Examiner has indicated is allowed. The specification also is sought to be amended to update and correct the claim to domestic priority.

These changes are believed not to introduce new matter, and entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Based on the above Amendment and the following Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections, and withdraw them.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his indication that claims 15-25 are allowed. Claims 8, 10, and 12 are sought to be amended to depend from claim 25. Thus, claims 8, 10, and 12, and their respective dependent claims 9, 11, and 13 are also believed to be allowable.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1, 4, 7-9, and 12 were rejected under section 102(b) as being anticipated by Simonsen et al. This rejection is overcome by the proposed cancellation of claims 1-4 and 7 and the amendment of claims 8, 10, and 12 to depend from allowed claim 25.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 11, and 13 were rejected under section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Simonsen et al. in view of Kaffka et al. This rejection is overcome by the proposed cancellation of claims 2, 3, 5, and 6, the amendment of claims 10 and 12, from which claims 11 and 13 respectively depend, to depend from allowed claim 25.

Entry of Amendment under 37 CFR § 116

Entry of the amendment under 37 CFR § 1.116 is believed to be in order, inasmuch as the amendments to the claims consist of the cancellation of rejected claims or rewriting of claims to place them in condition for allowance; and the amendment to specification is entirely formal, and/or does not raise new issues or require further search.

With respect to the amendment to the specification to delete the claim to domestic priority from application Ser. No. 09/771,596, application Ser. No. 09/244,756, and Provisional Application No. 60/073,784, it is noted that Patent No. 6,181,958 (corresponding to application Ser. No. 09/244,756) was made of record in the Information Disclosure Statement submitted April 25, 2002, which the Examiner has already considered; and that the disclosure of application Ser. No. 09/771,596 (now Patent No. 6,671,528) is identical to that of application Ser. No. 09/244,756.

Conclusion

All rejections have been complied with, properly traversed, or rendered moot. Thus, it now appears that the application is in condition for allowance. Should any questions arise, the Examiner

is invited to call the undersigned representative so that this case may receive an early Notice of Allowance.


Entry of this amendment, and favorable consideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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